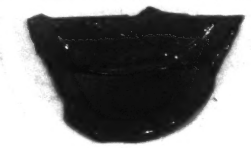
My dear Dilke, Winchester Wednesday Eve-

Whatever I take too for the time I cannot have off in a hurry; letter writing is the go now; I have consumed a Ream at least. You must give me credit, now, for a free letter when it is in reality an interested one, on two points, the one requestive, the other verging to the pros and cons - As I expect they will lead me to seeing and conferring with you in a short time. I shall not enter at all upon a letter I have lately received from George if not the most comfortable intelligence: but proceed to these two points, which if you can frame out in sections and subsections, for my edification, you will oblige me. The first I shall begin upon, the other will follow like a tail to a Comet. I have written to Brown on the subject, and can but go over the same Ground with you in a very short time, it not being more in length than the ordinary paces between the Wickets. It seems a resolution I have taken to endeavour to acquire wealthy by the pen any writing in Periodical works. You must agree with me how irksome it is to rack pecking upon hopes, which depending so much on the state of temper and arrangements, appear gloomy or bright, near or afar off just as it happens - A man on such has three parts - to act, to do, and to perform - I mean I should do something for my immediate welfare - even if I am swept away like a Spider from a drawing room I am determined to spin - home spun any thing for sale. Yea I will shape. Any thing but Mortgage my Brain

to Blackwood. I am determined not to lie by like a dead lump. If Reynolds had not taken to the law, would he not be earning something? Why cannot I. You may say I want Rest. - That is easily answered. You may be up to the elbows of a cock fight in three battles. It is fortunate I have not before this been tempted to venture on the common. I should a year or two ago have shaken my mind on every subject with the utmost simplicity. I hope I have learnt a little better and am confident I shall be able to treat as well as any literary Jew of the Market and frame up an article on any thing without much knowledge of the subject, age like an orange. I would willingly have recourse to other means. I cannot; I am fit for nothing but literature. Wait for the issue of this Tragedy? No. There cannot be greater uncertainties each week, month, and south Sea concerning dramatic composition. How many months must I wait! Had I not better begin to look about me now? If better events supersede this necessity what harm will be done? I have no hint whatever on Poetry. I dont wonder at it. - the marvel is to me how people read so much of it. I think you will see the reasonableness of my plan. To forward it I suppose living in cheap lodgings in Town, that I may be in the reach of books and information of which there is here a plentiful lack. If I can any where tolerably comfortable I will settle myself and jog till I can afford to buy Pleasure - which if never can afford I must go without. Talking of Pleasure, this moment

I was writing with one hand, and with the other holding to my mouth a Nectarine - good god how fine - It went down soft pulpy, slushy, oozy - all its delicious embonpoint melted down my throat like a large beatified Strawberry. I shall certainly breed. Now I come to my request. Should you like me for a neighbour again? Come, plump it out, I must black. I should also be in the neighbourhood of Mrs. Wylie, which I should be glad of, though that of course does not influence me. Therefore write you look about Hampstead, or rodney Street for a couple of rooms for me. Rooms like the gallant legs in masquerade time "as good as the times allow, Sir." I have written to day to Reynolds, and to Woodhouse. Do you know him? He is a Friend of Taylors at whose Room Brown has taken one of his funny odd dislikes. I'm sure he's wrong, because Woodhouse likes my Poetry - conclusive. Ask Your opinion and yet I must say to you as to him, that if you have any thing to say against it I shall be as obstinate & ready as a Radical. By the Examiner coming in your hand writing you must be in Town. They have put me into spirits. Notwithstanding my aristocratic temper I cannot help being very much pleased with the present public proceedings. I hope sincerely I shall be able to put a mite of help to the Liberal side of the Question before I die. If you should have left Town again for your Holidays I am not be at yet / let me know. When this is forwarded to you - A most extraordinary mischance has befallen two letters I wrote Brown - one from London whether I was obliged to go on



Charles Duke Esqr
3 Great Smith Street
Westminster

Paid 2d Oct